

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1907.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. CALVERLEY, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my FIRST ANNUAL REPORT dealing with the Vital Statistics and the Sanitary Condition of Brixworth Rural District, comprised of 36 Parishes, having an area of 63,608 acres, an estimated population of 11,820 and about 2,900 houses, averaging 4·1 inmates.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—In 1907, there were 223 births registered, 123 in East and 100 in West Brixworth.

In 1906, 232 were registered as against 223 in 1907, showing a decrease for 1907 of 9, or a birth-rate of 18·7 per 1,000, against 19·62 per 1,000 for 1906.

This is the lowest for the last twelve years.

DEATHS.—Total deaths registered in the District in 1907 were 147, *i.e.* 92 for East and 55 for West Brixworth, as against 171 for 1906, showing a decrease of 24 and a death-rate of 12·4 per 1,000.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of deaths under one year for 1907 were 17, as against 24 for 1906 and 23 for 1905.

The death-rate being 76·2 per 1,000 births registered, as against 103·4 for 1906.

PHTHISIS.—The deaths registered as caused by this disease were 19, as against 20 for 1906, or a death-rate of 1·6 per 1,000, as against 1·69 for 1906. Although slightly lower than last year, it is distinctly higher than it has been for the three years preceding 1906, the actual figures being—12 deaths in 1905, 17 in 1904, and 8 in 1903.

There were also two deaths from Tubercular Meningites and one from Tubercular Disease Spine, which might be put down with Phthisis, being due to the same cause.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—The deaths registered during 1907 were 28, as against 12 for 1906, or a death-rate of 2·36 per 1,000, as against 1·08 for 1906.

CANCER.—Four deaths were registered for the year, as against six for 1907, or a death-rate of ·33 per 1,000, as against ·50 for 1906.

SEE TABLES ATTACHED.

NOTE.—**DEATHS.**—17 of the 147 deaths registered occurred at the Borough Hospital, leaving 130 for the District proper, or a death-rate of 10·98 per 1,000.

PHTHISIS.—10 of the 19 deaths registered due to Phthisis occurred in the Borough Hospital, leaving 9 for the District proper, or a death-rate of ·07 per 1,000.

TABLE A.

EAST BRIXWORTH.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 year and under 5 years.	5 years and under 15 years.	15 years and under 25 years.	25 years and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	6	...	3	3	...	...	...	*6
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever.	Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other, Continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	16	...	...	...	5	10	1	{ *10 †1
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	*1
Cancer, Malignant	...	...	5	1	...	...	1	1	2	...
Bronchitis	...	...	15	1	4	...	...	...	10	...
Pneumonia	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Births	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	...	...	16	2	...	1	1	4	8	†3
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
All other Causes	...	...	26	2	...	...	...	7	17	†10
Total Deaths	...	...	92	8	8	5	8	23	40	29

* Non-Residents in Borough Hospital (Isolation).

† Residents in Workhouse.

TABLE A.

WEST BRIXWORTH.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5 years.	5 years and under 15 years.	15 years and under 25 years.	25 years and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.			1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever.	Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other, Continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer—Malignant	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Bronchitis	...	...	10	1	...	...	1	1	7
Pneumonia	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Venereal Diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Births...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	2	3
Accidents	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Suicides	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
All other Causes	...	...	24	4	1	...	...	4	15
Total Deaths	...	...	55	9	1	1	3	15	26

TABLE B.

The Year 1907.

DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE DISTRICTS IN WHICH THEY
OCCURRED, AT ALL AGES.

Brixworth	...	...	15	Brought forward	...	104
Brixworth Workhouse...	...	...	14	Teeton	...	1
Pitsford	...	...	4	Cottesbrooke	...	2
Boughton	...	...	5	Creaton	...	1
Brampton, Church	...	...	2	Cold Ashby	...	4
Harlestone	...	...	8	Hanging Houghton	...	1
Great Brington	...	...	6	Maidwell	...	2
Little Brington	...	...	3	Scaldwell	...	2
Spratton	...	...	10	Old	...	5
Holdenby	...	...	2	Walgrave	...	5
East Haddon	...	...	4	Hannington	...	1
Ravensthorpe	...	...	6	Holcot	...	2
Guilsborough	...	...	4	Overstone	...	3
Thornby	...	...	2	Moulton	...	14
Naseby	...	...	2			
Borough Hospital	...	...	17			
Forward	...	...	104	Total	...	147

TABLE C.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1907.

			All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
Diphtheria	...	...	7	...	1	5	...	1	...
Erysipelas	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	13	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	22	...	6	15	...	1	...
Total	...	...	42	...	7	20	...	15	...

TABLE D.

The Year 1907.CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED IN EACH SEPARATE
VILLAGE.

Creaton	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Holdenby	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
			Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Pitsford	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Overstone	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
			Diphtheria	...	...	1
Boughton	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
			Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Spratton	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	2
Kingsthorpe	...	...	Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Maidwell	...	...	Scarlet Fever	...	...	3
Harlestone	...	...	Scarlet Fever	...	...	5
			Diphtheria	...	...	5
Cold Ashby	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Cottesbrooke	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Brixworth	...	...	Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
East Haddon	...	...	Scarlet Fever	...	...	8
Lamport	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Scaldwell	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Guilsborough	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Moulton	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Brampton, Chapel	...	...	Diphtheria	...	...	1
			Totals	...	...	42

SANITARY REPORT.

In Table A, the deaths returned for "all other causes" for the whole year number 50. Most of these were due to causes dependent on old age.

There were 22 deaths for the year due to Heart Disease, the great cause of which is Rheumatism, which is largely due to damp houses and also to want of care on the part of the individuals.

Phthisis.—Deaths due to this disease numbered 19, two of the predisposing causes of which are overcrowding and want of fresh air. Most of the windows in country cottages are tightly shut.

SCARLET FEVER.

22 cases were notified during the whole year, as against 17 for 1906, 45 for 1905, and 101 for 1904.

Of the 22 cases, East Haddon is responsible for 8, Harlestone for 5, and Maidwell for 3.

Although there have been a few more cases than in 1906, there is a decided drop as compared with the two previous years, due to the fact that there has been very little in Northampton, from which place the infection has nearly always originally come.

The disease has been of a mild type: there have been no deaths in the district. Six deaths occurred in the Borough Hospital.

A six weeks' period of isolation was enforced in each case and was properly carried out.

At Harlestone and East Haddon the Schools were closed for 14 days.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Seven cases were notified, as against three for 1906, seven for 1905, and fourteen for 1904.

All the cases occurred in the latter part of the year. Six cases were notified in August, five at Harlestone and one at Overstone. The cases at Harlestone were of a very severe type, two of the children dying, one at Harlestone and the other in the Borough Hospital. The seventh case, which occurred in a child at Chapel Brampton, was notified in December.

MEASLES.

There has been an extensive epidemic at Holcot, Maidwell, Draughton and Pitsford in August, May and June, and at Brington and Overstone in September and October. The Schools were closed for a period of three weeks, and in some cases for longer.

WHOOPING COUGH AND MUMPS

Have not been at all prevalent during 1907..

VACCINATION.

The number of children vaccinated is diminishing, so many parents now-a-days get exemption for their babies, who will be in great danger should Small Pox break out.

WATER SUPPLY.

This, for most of the villages, is by surface wells.

NOTE —DIPHTHERIA.—The five cases of Diphtheria notified at Harlestone were afterwards proved to be Scarlet Fever.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Two cases of overcrowding have been abated.

Nine new houses built—Brixworth, 2 ; Boughton, 2 ; Overstone, 2 ; and Walgrave and Pitsford each 1.

More and better accommodation is needed in a good many of the villages.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new septic tank and filter at Spratton is completed.

There are 25 district filter beds and three septic tanks. These are reported on monthly, also all Schools.

Flushing is carried out every nine days, at a cost of £80 per year.

Scavengers of different villages four times a year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Are kept up to the required standard as far as cleanliness and sanitation.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

Have been found satisfactory on the whole.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

By notification, for such as are notifiable, and isolation as far as possible at their own homes.

Disinfection is done by formalin gas and sulphur fumes.

From my Report you will see that the condition of the district, as regards disease and death, has been better during the last year than in 1906. There has been the same number of infectious diseases as in 1906, but considerably fewer deaths, and a slight decrease in both Phthisis and Cancer.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his hearty co-operation, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and support.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. WINTERBOTHAM.

In November, 1907, the Local Government Inspector, Dr. Copeman, visited the district and inspected the following villages :—

Brixworth, Spratton, Creaton, Great and Little Brington, East Haddon, Ravensthorp, Scaldwell, Lamport, Old, Walgrave, Boughton, Moulton, Thornby, Cold Ashby and Naseby, Brampton and Harlestone.

His Report has not yet been received.

